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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

MIGRANT WORKERS

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. In its resolution 2000/49 of 25 April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights called upon all Member States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expressed the hope that it would enter into force at an early date; requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the active promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; welcomed the launching of the global campaign for entry into force of the Convention and invited organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to

disseminating information on the Convention and promoting an understanding thereof; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

3. As at 15 November 2000, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families has been ratified or acceded to by 15 States, namely: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda. In addition it had been signed by the following 10 States: Bangladesh, Chile, Comoros, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Turkey. The Convention will enter into force when at least 20 States have ratified or acceded to it.

4. Promotion of the international human rights treaties, including the Convention, is an ongoing priority of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In a follow-up to their 1997 appeal to Governments urging ratification of the treaties, the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner sent a joint letter to heads of Governments on 19 January 1999, to which some positive responses have already been received. In addition, on 15 May 2000, the Secretary-General sent a letter to all heads of State or Government inviting them to take the opportunity presented by the Millennium Summit, to be held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, to sign and ratify or accede to the multilateral treaties deposited with him. The 25 treaties representing the United Nations key objectives were listed in an attachment to the letter. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was included in that core group of treaties. As a result, three ratifications or accessions to and seven signatures of the Convention were deposited with the Secretary-General in September/October 2000.

5. Under the joint programme between the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Human rights strengthening", a series of workshops at the subregional and national levels will be organized in 2001. These workshops will aim at raising understanding of the main treaty provisions, examining the implications of ratification and informing Governments of the kinds of assistance that are available from the United Nations if they should wish to pursue ratification. The Convention on the Rights of Migrants is one of the seven treaties covered by these workshops.

6. Furthermore, the International Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants, which was formed in March 1998 for the purpose of building and popularizing a global campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention, continued its activities, including through its national counterparts. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights together with the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and other oranizations participated in and supported this initiative. In particular, a round table was held

on 12 April 2000 during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The round table was attended by the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution.

7. In addition, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants continued to promote adherence to the Convention within the framework of the mandate entrusted to her by the Commission on Human Rights. She attended a meeting of the Steering Committee in June 2000 and she intends to urge the Governments of countries she will visit to ratify the Convention.

8. Finally, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, efforts have been pursued by the Secretariat to establish a dialogue with States not having adhered to international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Migrants.

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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:
OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. This report has been prepared in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/49, in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to solicit comments from Governments, United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies and international and non-governmental organizations on the steps they have taken to promote and implement the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights (E/CN.4/1997/37, annex I).

2. The resolution further invited the human rights treaty bodies to give particular attention to HIV/AIDS-related rights and invited States to include appropriate HIV/AIDS-related information in their reports to the relevant treaty bodies.

3. In the same resolution, the Commission also requested all special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission to integrate the protection of HIV-related human rights within their respective mandates.

4. The operative paragraphs of the resolution relate, inter alia, to the following elements: (a) implementation of the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights; (b) strengthening national mechanisms for the protection of HIV/AIDS-related human rights, according special attention to women, children, and vulnerable groups; (c) international assistance for developing countries, in particular to prevent the spread of the epidemic; (d) coordinated, transparent, participatory and accountable national responses to HIV/AIDS in policies and programmes; (e) ensuring that laws, policies and practices in the context of HIV/AIDS are in accordance with human rights; (f) appropriate monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for HIV/AIDS-related human rights.

5. In accordance with paragraphs 11-13 of the resolution, the Secretary-General sent notes verbales dated 9 August 2000 to all Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, soliciting their views on the protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. Replies were received from the following Governments: Argentina, Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Qatar and Switzerland.

6. Substantive replies were received from the following national human rights commissions: Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia, Human Rights Commission of Canada and National Human Rights Commission of Mexico. These national commissions have taken steps to protect people living with HIV/AIDS from discriminatory practices.

7. Replies were also received from the following United Nations treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, Secretariat departments, and specialized agencies: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),

UNAIDS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

8. Replies were received from the following intergovernmental organizations: Organization of African Unity and League of Arab States.

9. The following non-governmental organizations sent contributions: Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, Femmes Afrique solidarité, International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, International Council of Nurses and International Federation of Social Workers.

10. In line with the Secretary-General's last report on the same subject matter (E/CN.4/1999/76), this report has been divided into two chapters. The first provides a summary of the replies received on the Guidelines and their implementation. The second chapter relates to policies and activities relating to the promotion and protection of HIV/AIDS-related human rights.

I. THE GUIDELINES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

11. In light of the views received, this chapter focuses on the comments on the implementation of the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights at the national level.

Guideline 1

12. Guideline 1 encourages States to establish an effective national framework for the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by integrating HIV/AIDS policy and programme responsibilities, across all branches of government.

13. The Government of Argentina reported that a national policy has been developed through the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in consultation with the provinces and principal municipalities by coordinating the various sectors of the national, provincial and municipal governments.

14. The Government of Colombia reported that a government decree on the rights and duties of people living with HIV/AIDS was issued in order to ensure the human rights and duties relating to diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The decree ensures respect for the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The right to treatment, including provision of medication, obligatory under article 8, is guaranteed based upon the right to health and the right to life contained in the Colombian Constitution. There is a functional group on STDs/HIV/AIDS, which has developed an evaluation mechanism for designing polices on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. It comprises six subcommittees that discuss relevant issues with the participation of people living with AIDS, non-governmental organizations, the civil society, academicians and the community at large. There has also been developed a project, *"Una Option de Convivencia,"* whose objective is to develop the theme of human rights and its application to people living with HIV/AIDS. The project includes creating awareness among regional departments in order to ensure its implementation nationwide.

15. The Government of Guatemala reported that a multisectoral commission has been established to support various institutions and ministries and which acts as coordinator of the national STDs/HIV/AIDS programme. The national programme aims to have an intersectoral, inter-agency and multidisciplinary focus with the participation of the civil society.

16. The Government of Mauritius reported that it is finalizing a National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan which will touch upon various HIV/AIDS-related issues with a view to protecting human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS.

17. The Government of Norway reported that its recent National Plan of Action for Combating the HIV/AIDS Epidemic has adopted human rights as its guiding principles. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is designing new HIV prevention strategies which emphasize the human rights of people infected with HIV/AIDS in conformity with the Guidelines.

18. The Government of Peru reported that the targets under the National Population Plan 1998-2000, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs, are being accomplished by the joint efforts of a number of bodies such as the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Human Development, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Guideline 2

19. Guideline 2 refers to the provision of political and financial support to ensure that community organizations are able to carry out their activities effectively and that community consultation occurs in all phases of policy design, programme implementation and evaluation.

20. The Government of Argentina reported that a technical advisory committee for the Coordinating and Executive Unit on HIV/AIDS/STDs was appointed by ministerial decision; it comprises specialists in the field and representatives of the National Network of People living with HIV/AIDS.

21. The Government of Cambodia stated that a candlelight rally was held to raise awareness of the need to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS. Participants were people living with HIV/AIDS themselves, health care workers, families and friends, clergy, United Nations officials and journalists.

Guideline 3

22. Guideline 3 focuses on the review and reform of public health laws to ensure that they address the public health issues raised by HIV/AIDS; that the provisions applicable to casually transmitted diseases are not inappropriately applied to HIV/AIDS; and that they are consistent with international human rights obligations.

23. The Government of Argentina reported that the Ministry of Health and the Health Commission of the Chamber of Deputies have commenced a process of analysis of legislation on HIV/AIDS to advance a better understanding of the disease and to promote the human rights of people affected by the disease.

24. The Government of Cambodia expects that its National Assembly will promulgate a law on HIV/AIDS which will address the issue of the protection of the rights of people infected with the virus.

25. The Government of Georgia elaborated and adopted the law on HIV infection and prevention of AIDS in 1995. Under the newly amended provisions of this law, people infected with HIV/AIDS have the right to treatment at the AIDS Centre in Tbilisi. For those in rural areas who cannot afford to travel to the capital, the law also provides a free journey by public transportation four times a year.

26. The Government of Peru reported that the Ministry of Health set up the Sexually Transmitted Disease and AIDS Control Programme (PROCETSS) to strengthen and evaluate the national response to STDs/HIV/AIDS. The strategies for the implementation of this programme include giving priority to the prevention of the disease. The programme identified as its crucial components the promotion of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, information, education and communication, and access to comprehensive and quality health services.

Guideline 4

27. Guideline 4 requires States to review and reform criminal law and correctional systems to ensure that they are consistent with international human rights obligations; are not misused in the context of HIV/AIDS; and are not targeted against vulnerable groups.

28. The Government of Argentina reported that a joint programme of the Ministries of Health and Justice on "Healthy Prisons" is developing activities designed to reduce the vulnerability and risk levels of prisoners.

29. The Government of Georgia reported that it is considering amending prison legislation to ensure equal treatment of prisoners with HIV/AIDS within penitentiary facilities. The draft being considered also contains a provision on pre-term release of prisoners infected with HIV/AIDS.

30. The Government of Switzerland reported that access to information on AIDS and to preventive materials is not always guaranteed in prisons in practice and that there are some shortcomings in the care and psycho-social support provided.

Guideline 5

31. Guideline 5 encourages States to enact or strengthen anti-discrimination and other protective laws to protect vulnerable groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities from discrimination in the public and private sectors; to ensure privacy and confidentiality; to ensure ethics in research involving human subjects; and to provide for speedy and effective administrative and civil remedies when the laws are breached.

32. The Government of Argentina reported it has enacted an AIDS Act with a view to the elimination of discrimination against people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. The enforcement of this legislation has been strengthened by a constitutional reform in 1994, which incorporated the international human rights norms.

33. The Government of Belarus stated that the Public Health Act prohibits discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. The principle of confidentiality is also guaranteed under the same Act. People with HIV/AIDS may not be dismissed from their jobs nor denied access to medical facilities.

34. The Government of Colombia reported that it is prohibited to use HIV/AIDS test results to exclude those infected by the disease from work, study, travel, and other social and cultural activities. Thus, people living with HIV/AIDS enjoy the rights to privacy and confidentiality.

35. The Government of Ghana reported that it has developed an advocacy tool, AIDS Impact Model, which urges political, traditional and social leaders to advocate against discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. A National Policy on HIV/AIDS/STDs has been developed, which includes a section on "Legal and Ethical Issues". This section addresses a wide range of human rights issues such as the prohibition of mandatory testing, the right to confidentiality and non-discrimination. A National Strategic Framework to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been finalized. It focuses on an enabling environment to implement the Framework. It will review existing laws and enact new laws to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. It further seeks to provide increasing knowledge for the general public on HIV/AIDS, especially on the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. This Framework will be implemented at the district and community levels through the District Response Initiative.

36. The Government of the Netherlands reported that a non-discrimination principle is entrenched in the Constitution. The Medical Examinations Act provides that no one may be denied employment or insurance on medical grounds.

37. The Government of Peru reported that campaigns are designed to prevent and combat discrimination against people infected with the disease by guaranteeing their fundamental rights. The "Family planning programme", compulsory in all departments and facilities of the Ministry of Health, the armed forces, the National Police and NGOs registered with the Health Ministry, encourages activities for the promotion of the rights of people infected with HIV/AIDS. The persons covered under this programme enjoy the rights to privacy, information, security of person, communication, decision-making and respect for their dignity, the right to a ... npliant and the right to compensation.

38. The Government of Qatar reported that medical services for citizens and resident foreigners infected with HIV/AIDS are provided equally, without discrimination.

39. The Government of Switzerland reported that there is no institutional discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS although there are some scattered individual cases of discrimination. It further reported that a national HIV/AIDS programme has been adopted and one of its objectives is to ensure that concerted action is taken to systematically reduce existing

inequalities in legal provisions relating to sickness, work and social insurance. It is to ensure that there is no discrimination in the enforcement of laws. To this end, NGOs are working to deal with specific discrimination cases at the national level.

40. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia stated that its complaint-handling role under the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act 1986 extends to examining complaints of discrimination in employment and occupation. One of the prohibitive grounds, "impairment", includes HIV/AIDS status. The Act also covers discrimination based on a belief about a person as one of the prohibitive grounds. The Act applies not only to recruitment and dismissal but also to benefits and conditions of employment. The Commission attempts to resolve complaints through conciliation, which may result in changes in employment policies and practices, job reinstatement, job promotion, an apology, withdrawal of the complaint, payment of damages or some other outcome. However, the Commission is not able to make binding determinations in respect of complaints against discriminatory actions that the Act does not make unlawful. The other legislation is the Disability Discrimination Act which makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of disability. The definition of disability under this Act covers HIV status.

41. The Human Rights Commission of Canada reported that it has devised a policy on HIV/AIDS-related discrimination based on the Human Rights Act which prohibits discrimination on the ground of disability; this extends to discrimination based on perceived disability. Individuals with HIV/AIDS may also be subjected to discrimination by virtue of their real or perceived membership in a risk group or their association with a person or people with HIV/AIDS.

42. The Human National Human Rights Commission of Mexico reported that it has established a working group to deal with cases of people living with HIV/AIDS. It has prepared primers on the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS as well as on the rights of people with HIV/AIDS who have been deprived of their freedom and placed in prisons or social rehabilitation centres. The first primer purports to set the minimum rights to be respected in accordance with the Guidelines. The second one sets out the rights of inmates and prisoners with a view to preventing arbitrary treatment.

43. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) reported that its constitution affirms a principle of non-discrimination. The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses spells out the nurse's responsibility for providing care to all people and strict adherence to professional conduct based on respect for all people regardless of their status, including medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS.

Guideline 6

44. Guideline 6 recommends that States enact laws and regulations to ensure the widespread availability of good quality prevention measures and services; adequate prevention and care information, and safe, effective and affordable medication.

45. The Government of Argentina reported that an HIV/AIDS prevention campaign was undertaken in conjunction with the mass media along with a focused campaign executed with NGOs, aimed at a number of vulnerable population groups such as drug users, homosexuals and sex workers.

46. The Government of Belarus reported that people with HIV are eligible for medical treatment and its confidentiality is guaranteed. Out-patient treatment is being provided to people with HIV in their homes or in the workplace as well as in-patient care in national and departmental health care facilities. Clinical monitoring, including laboratory testing and aetiotropic treatments for AIDS and its complications, is provided free of charge.

47. The Government of Mexico stated that there is a need to reorient and strengthen the regulatory framework governing institutional activities in terms of diagnosis and treatment products and specific prevention and control activities. Epidemiological HIV/AIDS monitoring should be conducted based on the need to ensure respect for the dignity of the people concerned, including their right to equality, confidentiality, privacy and protection against discrimination.

48. The Government of the Netherlands reported that it supports organizations responsible for streamlining special care services and encourages research on new methods of HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Systematic monitoring is undertaken on the efforts to prevent HIV infection among vulnerable groups as well as the population at large.

49. The Government of Peru reported that free anti-retroviral treatment is provided to women infected during pregnancy as well as to babies born to infected mothers.

50. The Government of Qatar stated that the public is being informed about the ways in which HIV/AIDS is transmitted and the ways to protect themselves from it, through various means such as lectures to schoolchildren and at sports clubs, newspaper articles, television programmes, pamphlets and leaflets. Citizens infected with HIV/AIDS are provided with medical services at a specialized clinic. Treatment, including the latest medication, is provided free of charge to AIDS patients. Information concerning AIDS status is kept confidential.

Guideline 7

51. Guideline 7 calls on States to implement and fund legal support that will: educate people about their rights; provide free legal services to enforce these rights; develop expertise on HIV-related issues; and utilize the courts and other means to protect the rights of individuals.

52. The Government of Argentina reported that a free HIV/AIDS hotline became fully operational in August 2000. It provides information on HIV/AIDS and human rights. Moreover, a Web site was opened containing information on legislation related to HIV/AIDS and explaining the rights of people infected by HIV/AIDS.

53. The Government of Belarus put in place a mechanism whereby consultations are held with people with HIV/AIDS to inform them of their rights.

54. The National Human Rights Commission of Mexico reported that it has organized a host of lectures and round tables to inform the public about the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV/AIDS, specialists and NGOs actively participated in discussions on the rights to medication, to be protected from discrimination and to be provided with assistance. The Commission further intensified its efforts to provide information on respect for the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as educational activities to inform the public about such concepts as marginalization, discrimination and social exclusion.

Guideline 8

55. Guideline 8 encourages the promotion of a supportive and enabling environment for women, children and vulnerable groups by addressing underlying prejudices and inequalities through community dialogue.

56. The Government of Argentina reported that, together with governmental and non-governmental organizations, it is undertaking activities to promote and disseminate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

57. The Government of Belarus reported that children may not be denied access to establishments intended for them, nor have any other rights infringed based on their HIV/AIDS status. This principle extends to other rights and legal interests of relatives of infected persons.

58. The International Federation of Social Workers submitted a report on "The role of the social welfare sector in Africa", which contains a summary of advocacy work designed to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable children and families in the context of HIV/AIDS. The document aims to create awareness of the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on children and orphans in Africa.

Guideline 9

59. Guideline 9 recommends that States promote and support creative educational, training and media programmes designed to change attitudes of discrimination and stigmatization associated with HIV/AIDS to understanding and acceptance.

60. The Government of Ghana reported that a series of meetings took place to advocate for support for opposing discrimination and reducing stigma.

61. The Government of Peru reported that since it is of vital importance to provide information and to bring about a change in public attitudes, it has incorporated various elements relating to HIV/AIDS issues into the national plans of the Ministry of Education.

62. The Human Rights Commission of Canada reported that the level of misunderstanding about HIV/AIDS contributes to the discriminatory treatment of those with HIV/AIDS. In this regard, education is the key to combating discrimination based on this misinformation. The Commission continues to assist in fostering public understanding and encourages employers to commit themselves to non-discrimination regarding employees with the disease.

63. The International Council of Nurses has developed policy guidelines relating to HIV/AIDS and human rights for its national associations with a view to supporting nurses' work to counter discrimination and stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, ICN has widely disseminated guidelines and other training manuals highlighting HIV/AIDS prevention and the protection of women against HIV infection.

Guideline 10

64. Guideline 10 recommends that States should ensure that HIV/AIDS-specific professional codes of conduct incorporating human rights principles are developed and a mechanism for their implementation and enforcement provided.

65. The Government of Belarus reported that the State HIV prevention programme is based upon the principle of observing the human rights standards entrenched in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Guideline 11

66. Guideline 11 requires States to ensure monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to guarantee the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and communities.

67. The Government of Belarus reported that an act amending and supplementing the State Aid to Families Raising Children Act was passed in 1999, in which the social protection of families raising children with HIV/AIDS has been strengthened. Those families will receive assistance until children reach 18 years of age. Social assistance is extended to HIV-infected adults in the form of allowances in cases where disability is certified following a diagnosis of pre-AIDS or AIDS.

Guideline 12

68. Guideline 12 refers to international cooperation, through UNAIDS and other United Nations agencies and programmes, to allow States to share knowledge and experience on HIV-related human rights issues, and to ensure that there are effective mechanisms at the international level to protect human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS.

69. The Government of Guatemala has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen the protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS with cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The national STDs/HIV/AIDS programme forms part of the AIDS Thematic Group in Guatemala for UNAIDS, which promotes prevention based on a rights-based approach with the participation of NGO representatives. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has donated funds to Guatemala to carry out HIV/AIDS-related work. A number of international organizations such as the Central American HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, Médecins sans frontières and the Pan-American Health Organization, which administers the SIDA funds, are supporting the Ministry of Health of Guatemala in carrying out the national programme.

70. The Government of Norway stressed the importance of integrating HIV/AIDS-related work as part of its long-term development cooperation. Norway is striving to work towards the protection of human rights both at national and international level based on the principle that everyone is entitled to international human rights and people with HIV/AIDS should enjoy equal rights in order to avoid discrimination and isolation from society.

71. The Government of Peru reported that a cooperation agreement was concluded among Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and the European Economic Community. This agreement provides for cooperation in public health with a focus on the disadvantaged through joint research, technology transfer and the exchange of expertise in the prevention and treatment of AIDS. A bilateral agreement between Peru and the United States of America has been concluded to confront the threats posed by the disease by designing a monitoring and research system to identify, develop and execute measures for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including AIDS.

72. The Government of Switzerland reported that it has consistently sponsored global programmes on AIDS to ensure that the rights of people infected with HIV/AIDS are respected.

73. The International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) reported its activities with regard to the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines. ICASO has prepared two booklets to assist community-based organizations to utilize the Guidelines and these documents have been widely disseminated through its networks and at national, regional and international meetings and conferences on HIV/AIDS since 1997. ICASO has also published a document urging that the Guidelines be used in advocacy, education and awareness-raising.

II. POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV/AIDS

Policies and activities of United Nations bodies and programmes

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reported that it has continued to give a great degree of attention to the human rights problems faced by children affected by HIV/AIDS. On 5 October 1998, the Committee dedicated its annual day of general discussion to the theme of "Children living in a world with HIV/AIDS". Co-organized with UNAIDS, the day of general discussion brought together representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and NGOs to discuss the implications of HIV/AIDS for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a result of the discussions, the Committee adopted a set of 16 recommendations that have been widely cited and used when addressing the implementation of child rights with regard to HIV/AIDS. The Committee clearly identified the HIV/AIDS epidemic as one of the major risks facing the implementation of the human rights of children. The Committee has discussed the human rights problems faced by children in the context of the epidemic in almost 90 per cent of the States parties' reports it has examined. The Committee has adopted relevant recommendations, suggesting measures to improve respect for the human rights of affected children, in almost all cases.

75. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education noted that the Dakar World Education Forum had adopted a Framework for Action which urges Governments to commit themselves to the implementation of education programmes and actions to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a matter of urgency.

76. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs reported that it had appointed a focal point whose tasks include the following: (a) the assessment of the ongoing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on families and their members as well as on family policies in developing and developed countries; and (b) the exploration of policy options and strategies in approaching the HIV/AIDS crisis from a family policy and development perspective. The Department is preparing a project which will examine the role and functions of families in the most HIV/AIDS-affected regional settings. This project will include a particular dimension concerning the protection of the human rights of families living with HIV/AIDS.

77. UNESCO initiated a project on the human rights of young people in the context of HIV/AIDS, with financial support from UNAIDS. The project aims to sensitize young people about their right and responsibility to act against HIV/AIDS-based discrimination and exclusion. UNESCO, together with youth organizations, particularly with organizations of medical, pharmaceutical and law students, is preparing an action-oriented resource manual on youth rights in the context of HIV/AIDS using the Guidelines as the framework of reference.

78. UN/ESCAP reported that it contributes to the creation of public awareness, support and an enabling environment for the promotion of all human rights for all, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and people with HIV/AIDS. Article 53 of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region calls for national and regional policies, plans and programmes to be formulated and implemented with a view to promoting behavioural change through public information and health, to providing support services for those already afflicted ensuring that there is no discrimination against them, and to eradicating sexual exploitation, especially of women and children. ESCAP has incorporated various dimensions of HIV/AIDS-related issues into its activities and various technical cooperation projects on economic and social development. ESCAP has been implementing a project on the right to development which contains a component on promoting the well-being of and non-discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS in close collaboration with Governments, NGOs and other United Nations bodies and agencies, particularly UNAIDS.

79. UNRWA reported that the Agency has developed an education programme for the prevention of HIV/AIDS implemented as a multisectoral activity targeting children, youth and women.

80. UNCTAD reported that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in May 2001, will reflect the HIV/AIDS issue in one of the proposed interactive thematic sessions on the role of health in enhancing productive capacities.

81. UNAIDS provided information on its activities ranging from standard setting, technical assistance and advice, training, research and networking for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS has undertaken a host of actions in

collaboration with international, regional and national partners: (a) a pilot project to strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions in India and Uganda to integrate HIV/AIDS issues into the work of commissions; (b) intensified country support and activities in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Malawi; (c) training of key national partners, AIDS service NGOs, human rights NGOs, political leaders, national AIDS programme managers and people living with HIV/AIDS; (d) research in specific human rights areas such as identifying the determinants of discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS; (e) global networking at international, regional and national levels, particularly with UNDP, the International Council of AIDS Services Organizations and organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS; and (f) technical assistance and advice for the Philippines in the drafting of legislation as well as for NGOs preparing court cases involving HIV/AIDS and human rights issues in the Supreme Courts of India and South Africa.

82. UNDP reported that as an active advocate for a rights-based approach to dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, it has striven to support and facilitate a host of global networks on human rights and HIV/AIDS, mobilizing various partners from Government, civil society and the private sector. The main objective of these networks is to forge a consensus on appropriate legal, ethical and human rights responses to the epidemic. It further aims to build national capacity for the implementation of the human rights norms. UNDP has conducted training for key national partners, HIV/AIDS service organizations, human rights NGOs, political leaders, national AIDS programme managers, people living with HIV/AIDS and staff of United Nations agencies. Regional consultations have also been held in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, and Latin America on ethical issues relating to HIV/AIDS. A national network on human rights and HIV/AIDS in Uganda has been expanded with support from UNDP. UNDP has provided key support to Nicaragua in the development of HIV/AIDS-related legislation and legal reform. UNDP uses the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights as an important advocacy tool at national and local levels and it further published a host of issues papers which in turn formed the backbone of UNDP's advocacy campaign for promoting the human rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

83. ILO reported that it organized a regional tripartite workshop on strategies to tackle the social and labour implications of HIV/AIDS. This workshop adopted a draft platform of action on HIV/AIDS in the context of the world of work in Africa, which emphasized the collective responsibility of Governments and employers' and workers' organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS, reflecting the urgent need to educate workers on the disease and their rights; sensitize employers on the need to make HIV/AIDS a corporate priority; and increasing overall awareness by Governments about the negative impact of HIV/AIDS on development efforts. A special high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS and the world of work was organized and it adopted a resolution concerning HIV/AIDS and the world of work that focuses on action to combat the epidemic. The ILO Global Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work was designed to implement the resolution. ILO hopes that the programme, using a rights-based approach, would: (a) increase awareness about the implications of HIV/AIDS for the world of work, with particular focus on employment, productivity and social security; (b) improve the capacity of the organization's constituents to design and implement appropriate policies and programmes for combating HIV/AIDS and its effects on the workplace, including stigma and discrimination; and (c) identify strategies and policy options for practical and implementable measures in the workplace to fight the epidemic.

84. WHO reported that the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution "HIV/AIDS: confronting the epidemic" which recognizes that poverty and inequality between men and women are driving the epidemic and that denial, discrimination and stigma continue to be major obstacles to an effective response to the epidemic. The resolution underscores the need to advocate respect for human rights in the implementation of all measures taken to respond to the epidemic. Human rights are considered an integral component in the area of HIV/AIDS in all aspects of designing, evaluating and monitoring WHO public health strategies. Parallel to ongoing activities in the area of health and human rights in WHO, an organization-wide WHO strategy on health and human rights is being developed and is expected to be adopted in 2001.

85. The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences reported that it co-sponsored a UNAIDS guidance document entitled "Ethical Considerations in HIV Preventive Vaccine Research".

Policies and activities of regional organizations

86. The League of Arab States suggested the following points with regard to the resolution: (a) the action taken should be in conformity with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and a separate paragraph should be inserted in the resolution to this effect; (b) a paragraph should be inserted stating that the international community would have an obligation to provide economic support and to increase the volume of official development assistance; (c) the debts of the heavily indebted poor countries should be waived; (d) foreign direct investment to the poor countries should be increased proportionally to meet the costs of the fight against the AIDS epidemic; and (e) a paragraph should be inserted in the resolution to the effect that facilities for the purchase of pharmaceuticals to treat HIV/AIDS should be provided to the developing countries.

87. The Organization of African Unity reported that it adopted the OAU Declaration on HIV/AIDS in July 2001.[1]

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[1] *OAU LOME DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS*, AHG/Decl.3 (XXXVI).

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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

MINORITIES

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2000/52, the Commission on Human Rights, called upon the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues; requested the Working Group on Minorities to contribute to and participate in the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; called upon States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the work of the Working Group; called upon States to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to minorities in the work of the Working Group and invited the High Commissioner for Human Rights to seek voluntary contributions in that regard; invited the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider favourably the recommendation of the Working Group to organize a seminar for representatives of international and regional organizations, to discuss issues concerning their respective work on the protection of minorities; requested the Secretary-General to provide the Working Group with all the necessary services and facilities to fulfil its mandate; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with the aforementioned resolution.

II. Expertise on minority issues, to be made available to Governments, including on the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities

3. As was highlighted by the High Commissioner in her report to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/12), stringent measures are required to meet the challenge of reducing tensions and violence based upon ethnic, racial or xenophobic conflicts. She indicated that such activities should include: preventive diplomacy; early warning mechanisms; promotion of tolerance through human rights education; support to democratic institutions through the better representation of all segments of society; affirmative action and the promotion of multiculturalism.

4. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provides technical assistance to Governments, at their request, to address, inter alia, minority issues, the strengthening of human rights protection and the prevention of human rights violations. This may be viewed within the broader context of United Nations system-wide efforts to establish a more effective response for long-term conflict prevention. In this regard, it is of interest to refer to the comments contained in the Secretary-General's Millennium Report (A/54/2000), as reiterated in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the "Brahimi report") (A/55/305-S/2000/809) according to which "in many cases of internal conflict 'poverty is coupled with sharp ethnic and religious cleavages' in which minority rights 'are insufficiently respected [and] the institutions of government are insufficiently inclusive'. Long-term preventive strategies in such instances must therefore work 'to promote human rights, to protect minority rights and to institute political arrangements in which all groups are represented ...'. Every group needs to become convinced that the State belongs to all people" (Ibid., para. 29).

5. Similar emphasis was given to these matters in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), in which the participants at the Millennium Summit expressed the resolve " ... to strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights" (para. 25).

III. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

6. The Working Group on Minorities, at its sixth session in May 2000, discussed its contribution to the World Conference. During this discussion a paper was submitted that addressed such matters as the relationship between racism, the protection of the rights of minorities and the work of national institutions.[1] The discussion was summarized in the report

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[1] Working paper presented by the observer for the Swiss Federal Commission against Racism (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2000/WP.6).

of the Working Group (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/27). It concluded with the recommendation that the Working Group's Chairperson-Rapporteur should prepare a statement to be delivered at the World Conference that would focus on the relationship between the elimination of racial discrimination and the protection of minorities.

IV. Participation in the Working Group on Minorities and manual on the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic,Religious and Linguistic Minorities

7. The Office of the High Commissioner continues to take action to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights calling for greater participation of minority representatives in sessions of the Working Group on Minorities and for voluntary contributions to be made in that regard.

8. OHCHR has also proposed that a manual on minority issues be prepared and published, preferably in time for the World Conference which is to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001. The manual is expected to include the text of the Declaration on National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities as well as the Commentary on the Declaration prepared by the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Minorities.

V. Promotion of the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including the holding of regional and expert seminars

9. As a means of further promoting awareness of the "Declaration on Minorities" and the Working Group, the first regional seminar of the Working Group was held from 13 to 15 May 2000, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Its emphasis was on "Multiculturalism in Africa: peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples."[2] This seminar was also supported by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and was organized with the assistance of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies. Participants came from various subregions of Africa and observers from other regions of the world; they were later present at the sixth session of the Working Group on Minorities, held from 22 to 26 May 2000 in Geneva.

10. At the seminar, participants raised issues relating to education and the effective political participation of minorities and offered various recommendations for action. They identified lack of access to political power, decision-making, basic services and resources as crucial factors in characterizing minorities. They drew attention to the reality of multicultural and multi-ethnic States prevailing in the African region and noted that the representation of all groups in the democratic process had to be respected and ensured. Access to education was identified as a major issue. It was suggested that education needed to be relevant and allow groups the opportunity to develop their culture and learn their language. Participants also recommended

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[2] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2000/WP.3.

that minorities be consulted when development policies were being formulated and implemented and that they should share in the benefits of development. They also suggested that a further seminar be held in the region and that future seminars would benefit from the participation of African Governments, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples, minorities and the academic community to further understanding about indigenous and minority issues in Africa. Moreover, they requested the United Nations to consider establishing a fund to assist representatives of minorities to attend the Working Group on Minorities, as had been established for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

11. The participation of persons belonging to minorities in public and political life, with particular attention being devoted to the question of integrative and autonomist approaches to minority protection, was selected as a topic for specific discussion at the Working Group's seventh session. To assist in that discussion, working papers were requested, covering such topics as relevant jurisprudence at the regional and global levels and selected models of integrative and autonomist solutions (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/27).

VI. Organization of a seminar for representatives of international and regional organizations and treaty bodies to discuss issues concerning their respective work on the protection of minorities

12. The Commission on Human Rights has requested that treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission give particular attention to questions relating to the situation of minorities. In that connection, the Commission may wish to note, in particular, that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its first day of general discussion on the situation of the Roma, following which the Committee adopted its General recommendation XXVII on discrimination against Roma (A/55/18, annex V).

13. In its resolution 2000/52, the Commission on Human Rights invited OHCHR to consider favourably the recommendation of the Working Group to organize a seminar for representatives of international and regional organizations, treaty bodies and specialized agencies to, inter alia, discuss issues concerning their respective work on the protection of minorities. The Office is examining this recommendation in depth and one of the possibilities being considered is the holding of a two-day seminar during the World Conference as, given the participation called for under the resolution, the World Conference may be the most feasible venue. Discussions at this seminar are expected to address: improving coordination so as to reduce duplication and parallel activities and ensuring the exchange of information on minority rights, particularly as it relates to best practices for the protection of minority rights.

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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. The present report supplements and updates as at 23 November 2000 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/55/204) of 18 July 2000, and the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights containing the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its fifth session in February 2000, which have been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add.1 of 14 December 1999 and 3 March 2000 respectively).

I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Fund") with the purpose of assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions which deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Working Group") by providing them with financial assistance, and to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the advice of a Board of Trustees (hereafter "the Board").

4. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, of issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. The current members of the Board, appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution are: Swami Agnivesh (Chairman; India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. BENEFICIARIES

5. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be, in the opinion of the Board: representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary

forms of slavery who would not be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery; or individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

6. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2000. Admissible applications will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place from 22 to 26 January 2001. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session will be submitted for approval by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2001. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide to the secretariat of the Fund narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 December 2001. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to these beneficiaries.

V. PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

7. In order to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned grants cycle and to meet new requests for funding received during a current year, new voluntary contributions should be paid to the Fund by January of the following year in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

8. At its fifth session, in February 2000, the Board recommended 17 travel grants for an amount of US$ 30,800 for NGOs to participate in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery which took place in Geneva from 14 to 23 June 2000 and 17 project grants for an amount of US$ 83,500 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see E/CN.4/2000/80/Add.1). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and 16 beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

VII. WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AND SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

9. When considering the item on its agenda concerning the Fund at its twenty-fifth session, held from 14 to 23 June 2000, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery had before it the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights

(E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add.1). The reports submitted regularly by the Secretary-General on the status of contributions and their use, showed increased transparency and was intended to encourage donors.

10. The issues raised at the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group by the beneficiaries of travel grants by the Fund were many and varied, including debt bondage and bonded labour, the sexual exploitation of children and slavery-like practices, the situation of child domestic workers, trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and child prostitution. All participants at that session welcomed the abundance and quality of the testimony and presentations made by former victims and organizations active in and acquainted with daily reality in the field. According to the Working Group, they brought a practical, human dimension to the Group's work, enabled it to keep abreast of developments and were extremely useful to the Group.

11. The Group also welcomed the presence, at their own expense, and participation in its deliberations of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, Mr. Swami Agnivesh, and of one of the members of the Board, Ms. Tatiana Matveeva. They mentioned, inter alia, that: at its last session, the Board had welcomed the Fund's higher profile, with the Chairperson of the Board being invited to introduce and update the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights; an increasing number of private individuals, including artists and students, had contributed to the Fund, among them pupils at a school in the United Kingdom who, as part of a project called "Progress of schools together", had raised US$ 1,000 for the Fund; donors had been thanked at their annual meeting with the Board and an appeal had been launched for new contributions; the Fund would need US$ 300,000 a year to function effectively.

12. In its resolution 2000/12 of 17 August 2000, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights noted with satisfaction the participation of a growing number of representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its twenty-fifth session and expressed its support for the work of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, in particular their fund-raising activities. The Sub-Commission encouraged the activities of those non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund. It also encouraged the Board of Trustees to finance non-governmental organizations from all geographical regions in order to provide the widest possible view of contemporary forms of slavery in the world.

VIII. SIXTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

13. The sixth session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, from 22 to 26 January 2001.

A. Contributions available for the sixth session

14. At the time of drafting of the present report, the contributions available for the sixth session are as follows:

Table 1. Contributions received from Governments as at 23 November 2000

States	Amount in US$	Paid on
Bahrain	3 000	24 October 2000
Japan	50 000	9 June 2000
Poland	5 000	24 October 2000
South Africa	9 550	3 April 2000
Subtotal	67 550	

Table 2. Contributions received from non-governmental organizations and individuals as at 23 November 2000

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US$	Paid on
Kansai Electric Power Dispute Committee/Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	1 840	30 July 2000
Students of the Archway School, United Kingdom	1 020	23 July 2000
Mr. Daniel Prémont	120	13 April 2000
Mr. Aldo and Ms. Giovanna Salvadori	7 184	30 August 2000
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	299	12 September 2000
Ms. Valeria Spinelli Catani	172	4 August 2000
Ms. Halima Warzazi	500	10 July 2000
Subtotal	11 135	
Grand total	78 685	

B. Pledges

Table 3. Pledges made as at 23 November 2000

States, NGOs and individuals	Amount in US$	Pledged on
Brazil	10 000[a]	27 April 2000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 000	14 March 2000
The Netherlands	38 462	23 November 2000
Ms. Lullin Kelemen	150	3 October 2000
Ms. Karen Parker	500	24 November 2000
Grand total	54 112	

[a] Pledge made for three years (US$ 10,000 each year).

IX. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

15. Applications for grants received in 2000 amounted to about $700,000. Therefore, the Board expressed the view at its fifth session in February 2000 that, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need $362,000 before its sixth session in January 2001, which includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and an operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the above-mentioned amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent for programme support costs.

16. Taking into consideration that, as at 23 November 2000, about US$ 270,000 are available for the sixth session - consisting of the balance remaining from the fifth session of the Board and new contributions received since then (see tables 1 and 2 above) - the Fund still needs additional contributions amounting to about US$ 100,000 to be able to fulfil its mandate effectively.

X. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

17. In its resolution 1999/46 of 27 April 1999 on contemporary forms of slavery, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund.

18. In its resolution 2000/12 of 17 August 2000, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights expressed its appreciation to the donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, in particular new donors, and expressed concern at the insufficiency of contributions to the Fund. The Sub-Commission therefore urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute annually to the Fund and emphasized the need for contributions on a regular basis and, if possible, before the end of the current year, in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively and to enable the Board of Trustees to recommend grants to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations to participate in the deliberations of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in June 2001 and to finance humanitarian assistance projects by non-governmental organizations in the field. It also encouraged all donors who have made pledges to the Fund to contribute as soon as possible.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments on 11 October 2000 appealing to them to contribute to the Fund and drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and Sub-Commission. Taking into consideration that the next session of the Board of Trustees would be held in January 2001, the High Commissioner underlined that she would greatly appreciate it if Governments were to

contribute to the Fund, if possible, by the end of the year so that their contributions could be taken into consideration by the Board and recommended for travel and assistance grants in the year 2001.

C. Meeting with regular donors

20. As part of the regular reporting process on the financial situation and activities of the Fund, the secretariat of the Fund and of the Board will organize a technical information meeting for regular donors on 14 December 2000 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, at which all relevant reports and documents on the activities of the Fund will be distributed and discussed. Donors will have the possibility to ask questions concerning the activities of the Fund and Board. Another technical information meeting for regular donors will take place in January 2001, during the session of the Board.

XI. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

21. Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund can be made:

By bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund"

In New York in United States dollars (US$): c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, N.Y. A/C: 001-1-508629, G/L: UN-0503456, US Banking Code: 021000021

Or in Geneva, in United States dollars (US$): c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.1;

Or in Swiss francs (CHF) or other currencies: c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.0, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

By cheque to the order of the "United Nations" to be sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Please mention in your payment order:

"For the Slavery Fund, account SH".

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

22. For further information about how to contribute to these Funds, please contact the Fund's secretariat, Trust Funds Unit, SSB, OHCHR, United Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; phone: (+4122) 917 9164, 917 9145 or 917 9266; fax: 917 9017; e-mail: dpremont.hchr@unog.ch/eortado-rosich.hchr@unog.ch

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